

Glossary of Terms Used in Emergency Management

Acronyms

A

| | |
|--------|---|
| AGC | -Associated General Contractors of America, Inc. |
| ALS | -Advanced Life Support |
| APCD | -Air Pollution Control District |
| AFC | -Area Fire Coordinator |
| ARC | -American Red Cross |
| ARES | -Amateur Radio Emergency Service |
| ARRL | -American Radio Relay League |
| ASTREA | -Aerial Support to Regional Enforcement Agencies (Sheriff's Helicopters) |

B

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|-----|-----------------------------------|
| BCA | -Building Contractors Association |
| BLS | -Basic Life Support |

C

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|---------------|---|
| CAC | -County Administration Center |
| CALTRANS | -California Department of Transportation |
| CAO | -Chief Administrative Officer |
| CAP | -Civil Air Patrol |
| CANG | -California Air National Guard |
| CB | -Citizen's Band Radio |
| CCC | -California Conservation Corps |
| CD | -Civil Defense |
| CDF | -California Department of Forestry |
| CDMG | -California Division of Mines and Geology |
| CFS | -Cubic Feet (per) Second |
| CHEMTREC | -Chemical Transportation Emergency Center |
| CHP | -California Highway Patrol |
| CIF | -Construction Industry Federation |
| CLEMARS | -California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Radio System |
| CLETS | -California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System |
| CNG | -California National Guard |
| CNPSERP | -County Nuclear Power Station Emergency Response Plan |
| COC | -County Operations Center |
| COE | -U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| COMNAVBASE | -Commander, Naval Base San Diego |
| COMSUBPACREP, | -Commander, Submarines, Pacific Representative West Coast |
| CPG | -Civil Preparedness Guide |
| CSTI | -California Specialized Training Institute |
| CWA | -County Water Authority |

D

| | |
|------|---|
| DAC | -Dept. of Animal Control (County) - See Annex O |
| D&C | -Direction and Control - Management |
| DAT | -Disaster Action Teams |
| DFG | -Department of Fish & Game |
| DFO | -Disaster Field Office |
| DHR | -Department of Human Resources |
| DDA | -Detailed Damage Assessment |
| DOC | -Department Operations Center |
| DOC | -Department of Commerce |
| DOD | -Department of Defense |
| DOE | -U.S. Department of Energy |
| DOEd | -Department of Education |
| DHHS | -Department of Health and Human Services |
| DHUD | -Department of Housing and Urban Development |
| DOI | -U.S. Department of Interior |
| DOJ | -Department of Justice |
| DOL | -Department of Labor |
| DOSs | -Department of State |
| DOT | -Department of Transportation |
| DPLU | -Department of Planning and Land Use (County) |
| DPW | -Department of Public Works |
| DSA | -Disaster Support Area |
| DSR | -Damage Survey Report |
| DSS | -Department of Social Services |
| DSW | -Disaster Service Worker |
| DWI | -Disaster Welfare Inquiry |
| DWR | -Department of Water Resources (State) |

E

| | |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| EAS | -Emergency Alert System |
| ECC | -Emergency Communications Center |
| EDD | -Employment Development Department |
| EIC | -Emergency Information Center |
| EIZ | -Emergency Information Zone (SONGS) |
| EMA | -Emergency Management Assistance |
| EMMA | -Emergency Managers Mutual Aid |
| EMI | -Emergency Management Institute |
| EMS | -Emergency Medical Services |
| EMT | -Emergency Medical Technician |
| ENC | -Emergency News Center (SONGS) |
| EOC | -Emergency Operations Center |
| EOF | -Emergency Operating Facility (SONGS) |
| EOP | -Emergency Operations Plan |
| EPA | -U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| EPI | -Emergency Public Information |
| EPIC | -Emergency Public Information Center |
| EPZ | -Emergency Planning Zone (SONGS) |
| ERT | -Emergency Response Team |

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|------|--------------------------------|
| ERT | -Environmental Response Team |
| EVAC | -Emergency Volunteer Air Corps |

F

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|---------|---|
| FAA | -Federal Aviation Administration |
| FAS | -First Aid Station |
| FAST | -Federal Agency Support Teams |
| FBI | -Federal Bureau of Investigation |
| FCC | -Federal Communications Commission |
| FCO | -Federal Coordinating Officer |
| FD | -Fire Department |
| FEMA | -Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| FHWA | -Federal Highway Administration |
| FIA | -Federal Insurance Administration |
| FIRMARS | -Fire Incident Response Mutual Aid Radio System |
| FPD | -Fire Protection District |
| FTS | -Field Treatment Site |
| FWS | -U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service |

GH

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|--------|--|
| GAR | -Governor's Authorized Representative |
| GSA | -General Services Administration |
| HAZMAT | -Hazardous Materials |
| H/CD | -Housing and Community Development (County) |
| HIRT | -HAZMAT Incident Response Team |
| HMMD | -Hazardous Materials Management Division |
| HST | -Health Services Team |
| HUD | -Department of Housing and Urban Development |

I

| | |
|------|---|
| IC | -Incident Commander |
| ICBO | -International Conference of Building Officials |
| ICC | -Interstate Commerce Commission |
| ICP | -Incident Command Post |
| ICS | -Incident Command System |
| IFG | -Individual and Family Grants |
| IMA | -Individual Mobilization Augmentee |
| IPC | -Interjurisdictional Planning Committee (SONGS) |
| IPZ | -Ingestion Pathway Zone (SONGS) |
| IRS | -Internal Revenue Service |
| IRT | -National Guard WMD Civilian Support Teams |

JK

| | |
|-------|--|
| JIC | -Joint Information Center |
| JNACC | -Joint Nuclear Accident Coordinating Committee |
| JEOC | -Joint Emergency Operating Center |
| KI | -Potassium Iodide |

L

LIFE -Lifesaving Information for Emergencies Alerting System

M

MASA -Mutual Aid Staging Area
MACS -Multi-Agency Command System
MCAS -Marine Corps Air Station
MCC -Mass Care Center
MEDMARS -Medical Mutual Aid Radio System
MHFP -Multihazard Functional Plan
MMST -Metropolitan Medical Strike Team
MSA -Multipurpose Staging Area
MSL -Mean Sea Level
MWD -Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

N

NAS -Naval Air Station
NASA -National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NASAR -National Association of Search and Rescue
NAWAS -National Warning System
NBC -Nuclear, Biological or Chemical
NCS -National Communications Systems
NDMS -National Disaster Medical System
NETRIMS -Internet Response Information Management System Site
NOAA -National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOSC -Naval Ocean Systems Center
NRAD -Naval Research and Development
NRC -Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NWS -National Weather Service
NUREG -Nuclear Regulatory Commission Publication

O

OA -Operational Area
OASIS -Operational Area Satellite Information System
ODAC -Off-site Dose Assessment Center (SONGS)
ODP -Office of Disaster Preparedness (Operational Area)
OES -Office of Emergency Services (State)
OPM -Office of Personnel Management
OSC -On-Scene Coordinator

P

PD -Police Department
PDA -Preliminary Damage Assessment
PIO -Public Information Officer
PL 920 -Public Law 920, 81st Congress, Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950

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|-----------|---|
| PL 93-288 | -Public Law 288, 93rd Congress, Disaster Relief Act of 1974 |
| PPP | -Population Protection Planning |
| PSA | -Public Service Announcement |
| PSI | -Pounds Per Square Inch |
| PST | -Pacific Strike Team |

QR

| | |
|--------|--|
| RACES | -Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service |
| RADEF | -Radiological Defense |
| RADMON | -Radiological Monitoring |
| RAT | -Radiological Assistance Team |
| RATCF | -Radar Air Traffic Control Facility (Miramar) |
| RCS | -Road Crew Supervisor |
| RCS | -Regional Communications System |
| RDMHC | -Regional Disaster Medical Health Coordinator |
| RDO | -Radiological Defense Officer |
| REACT | -Radio Emergency Associated Citizen Teams |
| REOC | -Regional Emergency Operations Center |
| REM | -Radiation Equivalent in Man |
| RHB | -State Department of Health Services, Radiologic Health Branch |
| RIMS | -Response Information Management System |
| RMO | -Radiological Monitor Operator |
| RO | -Radiological Officer |
| RRT | -Regional Response Team |
| RUIS | -Regional Urban Information System |
| RWQCB | -Regional Water Quality Control Board |

S

| | |
|--------------|---|
| SAC | -State Agency Coordinator |
| SAR | -Search and Rescue |
| SBA | -Small Business Administration |
| SCE | -Southern California Edison |
| SCO | -State Coordinating Officer |
| SDGE | -San Diego Gas and Electric |
| SDO | -Staff Duty Officer |
| SEMS | -Standardized Emergency Management System |
| SO | -Sheriff's Office |
| SOA | -State Operating Authority |
| SOC | -State Operations Center |
| SOCAL Edison | -Southern California Edison |
| SONGS | -San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station |
| SOP | -Standard Operating Procedure |
| SM | -Scene Manager |
| SWRCB | -State Water Resources Control Board |

T

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| TCP | -Traffic Control Points |
| TEP | -Temporary Evacuation Point |

TSDf
TREAS

-Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities
-Department of the Treasury

U

UDC
USA
USAF
USAR
USCG
USDA
USDCEsO
USGS
USMC
USN
USPS

-Unified Disaster Council
-United States Army
-United States Air Force
-Urban Search And Rescue
-United States Coast Guard
-United States Department of Agriculture
-Unified San Diego County Emergency Services Organization
-United States Geological Survey
-United States Marine Corps
-United States Navy
-United States Postal Service

VWXYZ

WMD
VA
VSC

-Weapons of Mass Destruction
-Department of Veterans Affairs
-Volunteer Services Coordinator

DEFINITIONS

AB

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

An aerial assessment of the damaged area which includes gathering information on the level and extent of damage and identifying potential hazardous areas for on-site inspections.

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES)

A group of Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) members who provide health and welfare communications in times of emergency. Affiliated locally with the American Red Cross, all area hospitals and the Emergency Medical Services Division of the County Health Department.

C

CIVIL DEFENSE (CD) (See Emergency Management)

All activities and measures designed or undertaken (1) to minimize the effects upon the civilian population and Government caused, or which would be caused by natural disaster, technological incidents, manmade disaster or an attack upon the United States, (2) to deal with the immediate emergency conditions which would be created by such events, and (3) to effectuate emergency repairs to, or the emergency restoration of vital utilities and facilities destroyed or damaged by such events. Was expanded to include Natural Disasters in the 1970s, the term is not used much anymore.

CUBIC FEET PER SECOND - C.F.S.

Used to describe the amount of flow passing a given point in a stream channel. One cubic foot per second is equivalent to approximately 7.5 gallons per second.

D

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

The appraisal or determination of the actual damage resulting from a disaster.

DECONTAMINATION/CONTAMINATION CONTROL

Radioactive Materials

The reduction (normally by removal) of contaminating radioactive material from a structure, area, person, or object. Decontamination may be accomplished by treating (e.g., washing down or sweeping) the surface so as to remove the contamination. Contamination control is accomplished by isolating the area or object and letting the material stand so that the radioactivity is decreased as a result of natural decay. Contaminated material may be covered to prevent redistribution and/or to provide shielding.

Other Hazardous Materials

Decontamination consists of physically removing contaminants and/or altering their chemical properties to render them less toxic. How extensive decontamination must be, depends on a number of factors, the most important being the type of contaminants involved. The more toxic or dangerous contaminants require more thorough decontamination procedures. Combining decontamination, the correct method of doffing personnel protective equipment, and the use of site work zones minimizes cross-contamination from protective clothing to wearer, equipment to personnel, and one area to another. Only general guidance can be given on methods and techniques for decontamination. The exact procedure to use must be determined after evaluating a number of factors specific to the incident.

DISASTER

An occurrence threatening the health, safety, or property of a community or larger area, generally beyond the capability of a single jurisdiction to handle. Types of disasters include man-made, natural, or war-related; such as nuclear attack, earthquakes, tidal waves, floods, hurricanes, and dam failures.

DISASTER ACTION TEAMS

Established in small unincorporated communities as a focal point for emergency services in coordination with the American Red Cross (ARC) and the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and utilizes all volunteers.

DISASTER FIELD OFFICE (DFO)

A central facility established by the Federal Coordinating Officer within or immediately adjacent to disaster impacted areas to be utilized as a point of coordination and control for state and federal governmental efforts to support disaster relief and recovery operations.

DISASTER SERVICE WORKER

Includes public employees and any registered person impressed into service during a State of War Emergency, a State of Emergency, or a Local Emergency by a person having authority to command the aid of citizens in the execution of his duties. It does not include any member registered as an active firefighting member of any regularly organized volunteer fire department, having official recognition, and full or partial support of the county, city, town or district in which such fire department is located.

DISASTER SUPPORT AREA (DSA)

A special facility established on the periphery of a disaster area where disaster relief resources (personnel and material) can be received, stockpiled, allocated and dispatched into the disaster area. A segregated portion of the area may be used for the receipt and emergency treatment of casualty evacuees arriving via short-range modes (air and ground) of transportation and for the subsequent movement of a select number by heavy, long-range aircraft, to adequate medical care facilities. Therefore, such facilities will normally be located at, or in close proximity to, operable airports with runways capable of accommodating heavy aircraft and offering adequate space for supplies, equipment, portable medical facilities and other essential resources. Marine Corps Air

Station (MCAS) Miramar and Brown Field on Otay Mesa have been designated DSAs in this region.

DISASTER WELFARE INQUIRY (DWI)

A service that provides health and welfare reports about relatives and certain other individuals believed to be in a disaster area and when the disaster caused dislocation or disruption of normal communications facilities precludes normal communications. This is a function of the American Red Cross and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

DOSIMETER

An instrument for measuring and registering total accumulated exposure to ionizing radiations.

E

ECONOMIC STABILIZATION

The intended result of governmental use of direct and indirect controls to maintain and stabilize the nation's economy during emergency conditions. Direct controls include such actions as the setting or freezing of wages, prices, and rents or the direct rationing of goods. Indirect controls can be put into effect by government through use of monetary, credit, tax, or other policy measures.

ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE (EMP)

A large amount of energy is released by the detonation of a high altitude nuclear weapon. A small proportion of this energy appears in the form of a high intensity, short duration, electromagnetic pulse (EMP), somewhat similar to that generated by lightning. EMP can cause damage or malfunction in unprotected electrical or electronic systems. When nuclear weapons are detonated at high altitudes, EMP damage can occur essentially instantaneously over very large areas. All unprotected communications equipment is susceptible to damage or destruction by EMP, including broadcast stations, radios, televisions, car radios, and battery-operated portable transistor radios.

EMERGENCY (STATE DEFINITION - ALSO SEE LOCAL EMERGENCY AND STATE OF EMERGENCY)

A disaster situation or condition of extreme peril to life and/or property, resulting from other than war or labor controversy, which is or is likely to be beyond local capability to control without assistance from other political entities.

EMERGENCY (FEDERAL DEFINITION)

Any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high-water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, drought, fire, explosion, or other catastrophe in any part of the United States which requires federal emergency assistance to supplement state and local efforts to save lives and protect public health and safety or to avert or lessen the threat of a major disaster.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)

This system has replaced the Emergency Broadcast System. It is a modern system designed to alert the public of impending disaster or emergency conditions. It will be used for all hazards and will utilize many different media to notify the public, including; Cable TV, AM and FM radio, Satellite and the Weather Service Radio System.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (ECC)

That facility designated by a political entity as a focal point for receiving and transmitting emergency communications.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (Command and Management)

The provision of overall operational control and/or coordination of emergency operations at each level of the Emergency Organization, whether it be the actual direction of field forces or the coordination of joint efforts of governmental and private agencies in supporting such operations.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Comprises all actions that are taken during the emergency period to protect life and property, to care for affected people, and to temporarily restore essential community services.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

A facility used for the centralized direction and/or coordination of emergency operations. An effective **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** must provide adequate working space and be properly equipped to accommodate its staff, have a capability to communicate with field units and other EOCs, and provide protection commensurate with the projected risk at its location.

EMERGENCY ORGANIZATION

Civil government augmented or reinforced during an emergency by elements of the private sector, auxiliaries, volunteers, and persons impressed into service.

EMERGENCY PLANS

Those official and approved documents which describe principles, policies, concepts of operations, methods and procedures to be applied in carrying out emergency operations or rendering mutual aid during emergencies. These plans include such elements as continuity of government, emergency functions of governmental agencies, mobilization and application of resources, mutual aid, and public information.

EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION (EPI)

Information disseminated to the public by official sources during an emergency, using broadcast and print media. EPI includes: (1) instructions on survival and health preservation actions to take (what to do, what not to do, evacuation procedures, etc.), (2) status information on the disaster situation (number of deaths, injuries, property damage, etc.), and (3) other useful information (state/federal assistance available).

EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER (EPIC)

A facility located within, or immediately adjacent to, an Emergency Operations Center and/or Disaster Field Office, established and utilized as a central point for preparation and release of coordinated emergency public information.

EMMA

Emergency Management Mutual Aid - A formalized system of providing emergency management assistance to emergency managers in jurisdictions which have been impacted by a disaster. It is based on the recognition of the fact that we often don't have the manpower required in an individual jurisdiction to provide continuous 24 hour a day management during a disaster. This is coordinated through State OES and assistance is brought in only to assist, not to direct and control.

EPICENTER

The geographical location of the point on the surface of the earth that is vertically above the earthquake focus. It is near the area of highest intensity shaking.

ESSENTIAL FACILITIES

Facilities that are essential for maintaining the health, safety, and overall well-being of the public following a disaster (e.g., hospitals, police and fire department buildings, utility facilities, etc.). May also include buildings that have been designated for use as mass care facilities (e.g., schools, churches, etc.). These facilities should be constructed to Seismic Zone 4 requirements or be Base-Isolated as well as being in an area that is as A-safe@ as possible.

EVACUATION

Organized, timed, and supervised dispersal of civilians from dangerous and potentially dangerous areas, their reception and care in safer areas, and their return to their own home communities.

F

FALLOUT SHELTER

A habitable structure, or space therein, used to protect its occupants from radioactive fallout. Criteria (National Shelter Survey requirements) include a protection factor of 40 or greater, a minimum of 10 square feet of floor space per person, and at least 65 cubic feet of space per person. In unventilated underground space, 500 cubic feet of space per person is required. These facilities no longer exist in San Diego County. They are no longer maintained or stocked with supplies.

FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER (FCO) (FEDERAL DEFINITION)

The person appointed by the President to coordinate federal assistance following an emergency or major disaster declaration.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Provides in-kind and monetary assistance to disaster victims, state, or local government by federal agencies under the provision of the Federal Disaster Relief Act and other statutory authorities of federal agencies.

FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF ACT

Public Law 93-288, as amended, gives the President broad powers to supplement the efforts and available resources of State and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to alleviate suffering and damage resulting from major (peacetime) disasters.

FIRST AID STATION

A location where first aid may be administered to disaster victims.

FLASH FLOOD

A flood that reaches its peak flow in a short length of time (hours or minutes) after the storm or other event causing it. Often characterized by high velocity flows.

FLOOD OR FLOODING

Temporary inundation of normally dry land areas from the overflow of inland and/or tidal waters, and/or from the usual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.

FLOOD FREQUENCY

A statistical expression of the average time period between flood equaling or exceeding a given magnitude. For example, a 100-year flood has a magnitude expected to be equaled or exceeded on the average of once every hundred years; such a flood has a one-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Often used interchangeably with "recurrence interval".

FLOOD FRINGE

The portion of the floodplain outside of the floodway or coastal high hazard area but still subject to flooding. Sometimes referred to as "floodway fringe". Also used to refer to areas subject to flooding by water with little or no velocity.

FLOODPLAIN

Is commonly divided into a floodway: which carries flood waters and average flow and a flood-fringe: the land outside the floodway which is inundated by a 100-year flood.

FLOOD WARNING

The issuance and dissemination of information about an imminent or current flood.

FLOODWAY

The channel of a watercourse and those portions of the adjoining floodplain required to provide for the passage of the selected flood (normally the 100-year flood) with an insignificant increase in the flood levels above that of natural conditions.

GH

HAZARD ANALYSIS

The analysis of situations or natural events having the potential for doing damage to life, property, resources, or the environment.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

Any substance or material in a quantity or form which may be harmful or injurious to humans, domestic animals, wildlife, economic crops or property when released into the environment. Hazardous materials are classified in this plan as chemical, biological, radiological or explosive.

Chemical – Toxic, corrosive, or injurious substance because of inherent chemical properties and includes but is not limited to such items as petroleum products, paints, plastics, acids, caustics, industrial chemicals, poisons, drugs, mineral fibers (asbestos).

Biological – Microorganisms or associated products which may cause disease in humans, animals or economic crops and includes pathogenic wastes from medical institutions, slaughterhouses, poultry processing plants, and imported unprocessed wood fibers.

Radiological – Any radioactive substance emitting ionizing radiation at a level to produce a health hazard.

Explosive – Material capable of releasing energy with blast effect in a split second upon activation; the released energy usually damages or destroys objects in close proximity to the blast.

I

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)

A system designed for the management of emergencies resulting from fires and other natural or man-caused emergencies. ICS can be used during serious multi disciplinary (fire, law, medical) emergencies or for operations involving a single jurisdiction with single or multi agency involvement, or multi jurisdiction/multiagency involvement.

INTELLIGENCE

The process of obtaining information to understand existing conditions, to foresee problems, and to make effective decisions.

INTENSITY (ACTUAL EFFECTS)

A number describing the effects of an earthquake on man, on man-made objects, and on the earth's surface. It is a noninstrumented rating of the degree of shaking at a specified place as determined by experienced investigators working in the field. While an earthquake can have only one magnitude, it can have several intensities. Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale is most commonly used today in the United States. Grades of intensity are indicated by roman numerals I through XII.

J

JOINT EMERGENCY OPERATING CENTER (JEOC)

A facility established on the periphery of a disaster area to coordinate and control multi jurisdictional emergency operations within the disaster area. The JEOC will be staffed by representatives of select local, state and federal agencies and private organizations, and will have the capability of providing a communications link between any Mobile Emergency Operating Centers established in the disaster area and the State Operations Center in Sacramento.

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

A location which houses the personnel of the State Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the purpose of which is to disseminate information by all media relating to the disaster.

KL

L.I.F.E. SYSTEM

A disaster warning and emergency public information system unique to the San Diego County. L.I.F.E., which is an acronym for Lifesaving Information for Emergencies, provides updates, advice and educational information to schools, key officials, response agencies and the public via broadcasting and other news media stations.

LIFELINES

Includes the infrastructure for (storage, treatment, and distribution) fuel, communication, and water and sewage systems.

LIQUEFACTION

The phenomena by which the soil loses its ability to support buildings or other heavy objects. It is caused by the vibration of the earthquake loosening up sandy particles which allows underground water to rise towards the surface creating a type of quicksand.

LOCAL EMERGENCY (State Definition)

The duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city or county, or city, caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, or earthquake or other conditions which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment,

and facilities of that political subdivision and require the combined forces of political subdivisions to combat.

M

MAJOR DISASTER (Federal Definition)

Any hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high-water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, drought, fire, explosions, or other catastrophe in any part of the United States which, in the determination of the President, causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance under the Federal Disaster Relief Act, above and beyond emergency services by the Federal Government, to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

MASS CARE FACILITY

A location such as a school at which temporary lodging, feeding, clothing, registration, welfare inquiry, first aid, and essential social services can be provided to disaster victims during the immediate/sustained emergency period. In San Diego Operational Area, may be used interchangeably with Mass Care Center (MCC) or congregate lodging facility.

MASTER MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT (State Definition)

The California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement made and entered into by and between the State of California, its various departments and agencies, and the various political subdivisions of the state.

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL STRIKE TEAM

A locally available, trained, nuclear, biological or chemical incident response team which will assist requesting jurisdictions with immediate response issues to an NBC event.

MITIGATION

Action taken which eliminates or reduces the affects of or the probability of the occurrence of a disaster.

MODIFIED MERCALLI SCALE

An observed measurement indicating the shaking intensity or damage caused by an earthquake. Scale has 12 intensity grades which express degree of earth movement. (See Earthquake Intensity)

MULTIPURPOSE STAGING AREA (MSA)

A predesignated location such as a County/District Fairgrounds having large parking areas and shelter for equipment and operators, which provides a base for coordinated localized emergency operations, a rally point for mutual aid coming into an area, and a site for post-disaster population support and recovery activities.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

An agreement in which two or more parties agree to furnish resources and facilities and to render services to each and every other party of the agreement to prevent and respond to any type of disaster or emergency.

MUTUAL AID REGION (State Definition)

A subdivision of the State emergency services organization, established to facilitate coordination of mutual aid and other emergency operations within an area of the state consisting of two or more operational areas.

MUTUAL AID STAGING AREA

A temporary facility established by the State Office of Emergency Services within, or adjacent to, affected areas. It may be supported by mobile communications and personnel provided by field or headquarters staff from state agencies, as well as personnel from local jurisdictions throughout the state.

N

NATIONAL WARNING SYSTEM (NAWAS)

The Federal portion of the Civil Defense Warning System, used for the dissemination of warning and other emergency information from the Warning Centers or Regions to Warning Points in each State.

O

OPERATIONAL AREA (State Definition)

An intermediate level of the state emergency services organization, consisting of a county and all political subdivisions within the county area.

PQ

PLATE TECTONICS

The study of the origin, development and movement of the broad structural plates of the earth. The movement of the plates accounts for the earthquake, volcanic and tsunami activity experienced around the world.

R

RACES

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, a radio-communication service carried on by licensed non-commercial radio stations while operating on specifically designated segments of the regularly allocated amateur frequency bands under the direction of authorized local, regional, Federal civil defense officials pursuant to an approved civil defense communications plan.

RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT

The process or phenomenon of the gravity-caused fallback to the earth's surface of particles contaminated with radioactive materials from a cloud of this matter formed by a nuclear detonation. The term is also applied in a collective sense to the contaminated particulate matter itself. The early (or local) fallout is defined, somewhat arbitrarily, as those particles which reach the earth within 24 hours after a nuclear explosion. Delayed (worldwide) fallout consists of the smaller particles which ascend into the upper troposphere and into the stratosphere and are carried by the winds to all parts of the earth. Delayed fallout is brought to earth mainly by rain or snow, over extended periods ranging from months to years with relatively little associated hazard.

RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

The organized effort, through warning, detection, and preventive and remedial measures, to minimize the effect of nuclear radiation on people and resources.

RADIOLOGICAL MONITOR

An individual trained to measure, record, and report radiation exposure and exposure rates; provide limited field guidance on radiation hazards associated with operations to which he/she is assigned; and perform operator's checks and maintenance on radiological instruments.

REOC

The Regional Emergency Operations Center, located in Los Alamitos and staffed by the State Office of Emergency Services. It serves as a coordination point for resource requests from Operational Areas.

S

SHELTER AREA

An area, inside existing structures, which by reason of location, may be expected to provide some degree of safety for people, records, and equipment.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs)

A set of instructions having the force of a directive, covering those features of operations which lend themselves to a definite or standardized procedure without loss of effectiveness.

STATE COORDINATING OFFICER (SCO) (Federal Definition)

A person appointed by the Governor to act for the State in cooperation with the Federal Coordinating Officer.

STATE EMERGENCY ORGANIZATION

The agencies, boards, and commissions of the executive branch of state government and affiliated private sector organizations. In California, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

STATE OF EMERGENCY (State Definition)

A duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, or earthquake or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy, or conditions causing a “state of war emergency”, which conditions, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat.

STATE OF WAR EMERGENCY (State Definition)

The condition which exists immediately, with or without a proclamation thereof by the Governor, whenever the state or nation is directly attacked by an enemy of the United States, or upon the receipt by the state of a warning from the federal government that such an enemy attack is probable or imminent.

STATE OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC)

A facility established by the State Office of Emergency Services Headquarters for the purpose of coordinating and supporting operations within a disaster area, and controlling the response efforts of state and federal agencies in supporting local governmental operations. The SOC will be staffed by representatives of state and federal agencies and private organizations, and will have the capability of providing a communications link to a Joint Emergency Operating Center established on the periphery of a disaster area and to any Mobile Emergency Operating Centers established in the disaster area.

STORM SURGE

A rise above normal water level on the open coast due only to the action of wind stress on the water surface. A storm surge resulting from a hurricane or other intense storm also includes the rise in level due to atmospheric pressure reduction as well as that due to wind stress. A storm surge is more severe when it occurs in conjunction with a high tide.

TUVWXYZ

TEMPORARY EVACUATION POINTS

Large generally open areas such as parking lots where people to be evacuated will gather until transportation arrives or a shelter location is announced. Little if any services will be provided.

TRAFFIC CONTROL POINTS (TCP)

Places along movement routes that are manned by emergency personnel to direct and control the flow of traffic.

TORNADO

Relatively short-lived local storms. They are composed of violently rotating columns of air that descend in the familiar funnel shape from thunderstorm cloud systems. Tornadoes usually travel from west to east.

TSUNAMI

One or a series of long-period great sea waves generated by earth movement or volcanic eruption under the sea. Often incorrectly called tidal waves, “tsunami” is a Japanese word which means “waves that come into harbors”.